

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification to correct some minor typographical errors. Applicants also: cancel claims 1, 3, 7 and 9 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter, or prejudice against future prosecution; amend claims 2, 4-6, 8, 10-13, and add new claims 14-17.

Accordingly, claims 2, 4-6, 8, and 10-17 are pending in the application.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge the claim for priority and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11 define patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 4, 8 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form. All of the remaining pending claims 5, 6, and 11-17 depend from one of these independent claims.

New claims 14-17 are added to at least partially restore the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 2, 4-6, 8, and 10-17 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this reply to charge

payment or credit any overpayment (except for the issue fee) to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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